

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /194 W
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R 041920Z APR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6675

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EEC US

SUBJ: US-EC WINE CONSULTATIONS

REF: A. STATE 63655 B. EC BRUSSELS 5863 (1973)

C. EC BRUSSELS 7132 (1973) D. EC BRUSSELS 32 E. EC BRUSSELS 301

F. STATE 251403 G. STATE 36629 H. EC BRUSSELS 1264

I. STATE 188447 J. EC BRUSSELS 1948

1. COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE
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COMMUNITY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN WINE

CONSULTATIONS AS EARLY AS APRIL 10. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS THAT THE HEAD OF THE COMMISSION WINE DIVISION (GOURDON) IS UNDER INTENSIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT THE US SO SOON. THE COMMISSION HAS PROMISED US A FIRM CONSULTATION DATE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. THE MISSION REGRETS THAT US WINE EXPORTERS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN GIVEN THE INCORRECT IMPRESSION THAT THE SUSPENSION OF THE EC WINE IMPORT CERTIFICATE ON US SHIPMENTS IS ALREADY IN EFFECT (REFTEL A). FIELDING MADE AN INFORMAL PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A SUSPENSION IN OCTOBER 1973. HE SAID THE COMMISSION WAS WILLING TO TRY TO ATTEMPT TO PUT SUCH A SUSPENSION INTO EFFECT IF THE US WOULD CONSIDER IT USEFUL, AND HE ASKED FOR AN INFORMAL US REACTION TO HIS PROPOSAL (PARA 4-6 REFTEL B). SUBSEQUENT CABLES FROM THE MISSION (REFTELS C, D AND E) REQUESTED INFORMATION ON A US REACTION THAT COULD BE CONVEYED TO THE COMMISSION. THE DEPARTMENT'S REFTEL F INDICATED THAT WASHINGTON UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US HAD NOT YET ACCEPTED THE FIELDING PROPOSAL.

3. THE FIRST US REACTION WHICH WE WERE ABLE TO CONVEY TO THE COMMISSION WAS THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL G, DATED FEBRUARY 23, WHICH STATED THAT THE MISSION SHOULD "ACKNOWLEDGE" THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL. IN CONVEYING "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT" TO THE COMMISSION, MISSION OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS A FAVORABLE REACTION. THE MISSION'S REPORTING CABLE, REFTEL 1264, STATED THAT COMMISSION OFFICIALS WELCOMED THE POSITIVE US REACTION BUT, IN VIEW OF THE PASSAGE OF TIME, WOULD HAVE TO RECONFIRM THE MATTER WITHIN THE COMMISSION (REFTEL H).

4. THE ONLY RECORD WHICH WE CAN FIND WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THE INFERENCE THAT THE COMMISSION HAD ALREADY PUT THE PROPOSAL INTO EFFECT IS THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL G WHICH STATED THAT DURING HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY "SOAMES DOUBTED WHETHER THERE WAS NEED FOR A US REPLY ON THE EC-PROPOSED EXEMPTION, BUT HE WAS UNCLEAR ON STATUS."

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5. THE FACTS ARE THAT, HAVING NOW RECEIVED A US REACTION, THE COMMISSION IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO PUT A SUSPENSION INTO EFFECT. AFTER EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITIES THEY BELIEVE THAT A COUNCIL RATHER THAN A COMMISSION DECISION WILL BE NECESSARY AND THAT THIS WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS. THE MISSION HOPES THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE CLEAR TO US WINE EXPORTERS THAT UNTIL A SUSPENSION IS PUT INTO EFFECT THE EC CERTIFICATE WILL REMAIN NECESSARY, BUT THAT

THE US HAS A PROCEDURE TO ALLOW BATF TO ATTEST TO SUCH A
CERTIFICATE (REFTEL I). THE MISSION HAS SO INFORMED US
WINE PRODUCERS WHO HAVE WRITTEN US DIRECTLY. SHOULD
ANY WINE SHIPMENTS NOT COVERED BY CERTIFICATES BE
STOPPED BY THE CUSTOMS OF ANY OF THE MEMBER STATES,
USEC WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMISSION TO SEE IF AN
ACCOMMODATING ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE (REFTEL ').
GREENWALD

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